

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

August 2004



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

Unemployment rate estimates offer more encouragement than payroll employment estimates

In July, **Columbia County's** unemployment rate fell by a typical margin, leaving it 0.3 percent above its typical level, just as it was in June. In leisure & hospitality and in construction, this year's recent seasonal trends have generally followed last year's, with employment estimates reflecting healthy increases from their levels at the same time last year. Employment estimates for financial activities increased slightly this July instead of falling slightly as they did last July.

The unemployment rate in **Dane County** remains the lower than any other Wisconsin county and just 0.5 percent above its typical July level, which is less than half the gap seen last July. Wholesale trade employment esti-

mates continue to show strength consistent with the last few months. Meanwhile, retail trade employment estimates fell between June and July, instead of rising as they did last year. While June's construction employment estimates

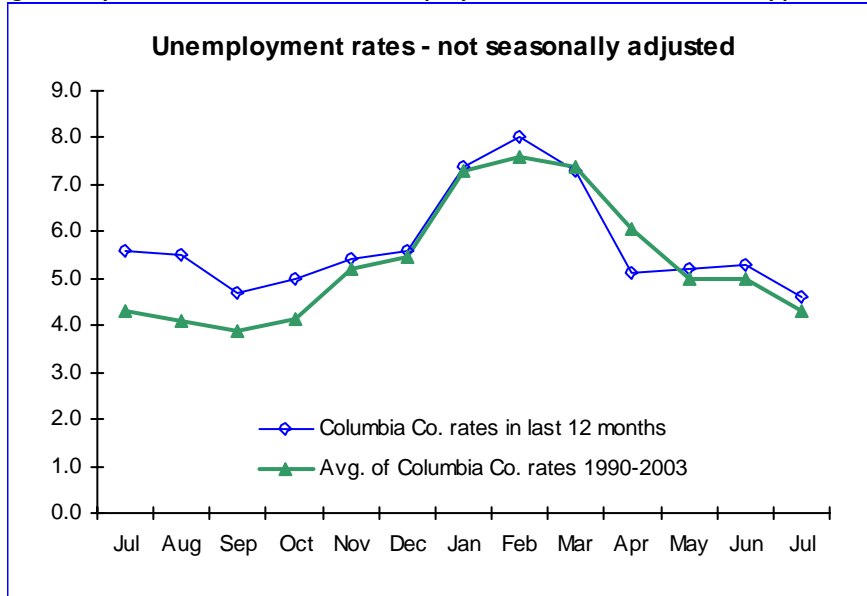
jobs and in job growth, July is the strongest month the manufacturing sector has seen in all of 2002, 2003 or 2004.

In **Dodge County**, the unemployment rate is 0.6 percent above the typical level; this is closer to

normal than it has been at any time in the last year except April. Last year's summertime dip in retail & wholesale trade employment estimates was unusual, especially in contrast with this summer's stronger-than-expected growth. Manufacturing employment estimates remain below last year's levels, but the gap has tended to

shrink since its December peak.

Jefferson County's unemployment rate has been more volatile than usual this spring and summer



Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Jul 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jul 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jul 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jul 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	3,175,500	280	19,700	465,100	1,000	1,040	29,500	-270	90	294,100	1,420	1,000
Employed	3,028,400	16,100	52,500	450,400	3,100	4,100	28,100	-60	380	287,000	2,300	2,800
Unemployed	147,100	-15,860	-32,830	14,700	-2,050	-3,070	1,370	-220	-280	7,100	-850	-1,840
Unemployment rate (%)	4.6	-0.5	-1.1	3.2	-0.4	-0.6	4.6	-0.7	-1.0	2.4	-0.3	-0.7
	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Jul 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jul 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jul 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jul 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	50,000	230	350	44,000	-440	-380	7,100	-110	-130	40,500	180	100
Employed	47,500	520	850	42,000	20	-280	6,700	-10	90	39,100	320	230
Unemployed	2,500	-290	-490	2,000	-460	-110	380	-100	-220	1,350	-140	-130
Unemployment rate (%)	5.0	-0.6	-1.0	4.6	-1.0	-0.2	5.3	-1.2	-2.9	3.3	-0.4	-0.4

** Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are **NOT** seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

and now sits 0.9 percent above its typical July level. This is one of the more encouraging results of 2004. Construction and leisure & hospitality employment estimates continue to follow the general contours of last year's patterns, though at higher levels. Meanwhile, manufacturing and transportation, warehousing & utilities employment estimates remain below year-ago levels without showing signs of improving.

After exceptional declines in the spring, the unemployment rate in **Marquette County**

is 0.2 percent above the typical July level. This is far closer than last July (3.1 percent above typi-

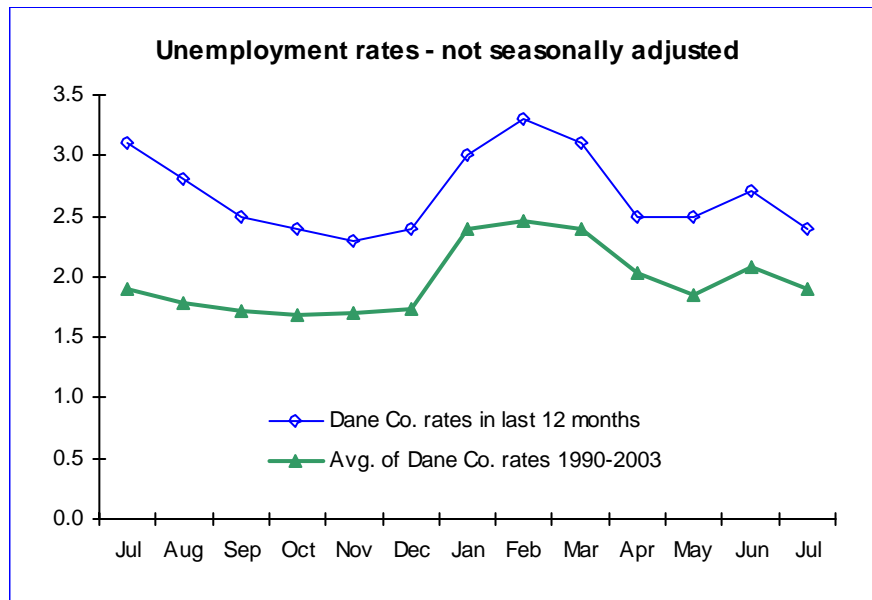
cal) and much closer than most of the last 12 months (0.7 percent to 1.7 percent above typical), but not quite as encouraging as April and

formation, professional, business & other services sectors showed much more vitality in the last six months than in the preceding six months,

while construction has seen a soft spring and summer.

The unemployment rate in **Sauk County** remains slightly below typical, although not as far below as it had been in the first four months of 2004. Leisure & hospitality gained summer momentum, accounting for most of the total job growth between last July and this July. Retail & wholesale trade employment

estimates have been soft this spring and summer, well below summer peaks seen in 2002 and 2003.



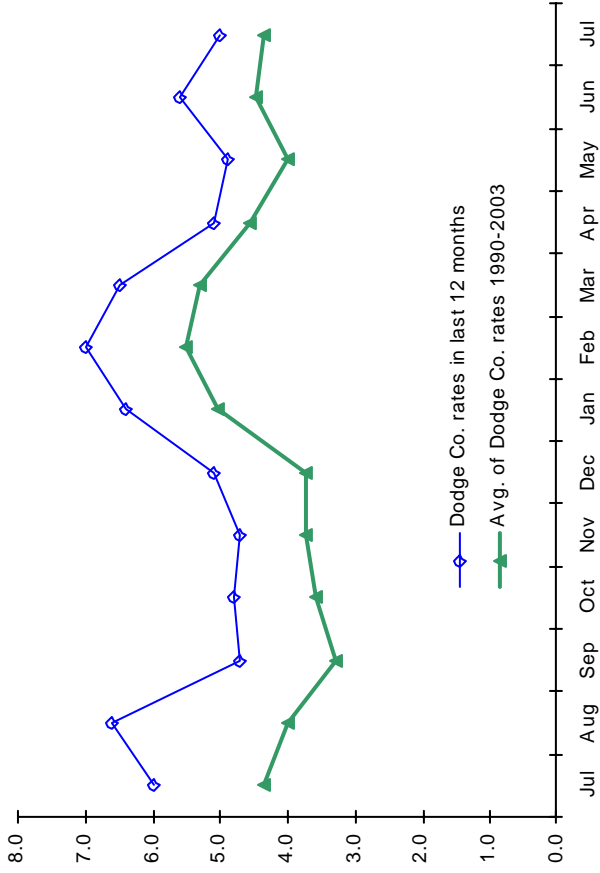
Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Jul 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jul 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jul 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jul 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all indstries*	2,846,400	-22,400	48,800	433,400	-2,400	2,400	21,100	-310	90	299,300	-1,000	2,300
Const., min'g & nat. resources	143,200	4,900	3,200	23,800	550	360	1,280	40	70	16,100	400	300
Manufacturing	523,700	5,600	12,000	60,200	1,170	-360	4,800	60	-70	28,300	900	600
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	444,700	-1,600	9,300	63,500	-650	-320	3,700	-10	-20	42,200	-600	-400
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	105,400	-2,700	-200	10,500	-220	-730	770	0	-40	6,900	-100	0
Financial activities	161,600	600	2,600	30,000	-90	-10	700	20	80	25,800	-100	-200
Education & health services	375,800	2,000	10,900	44,400	-280	260	2,200	-30	-70	29,700	-200	100
Leisure & hospitality	272,200	1,600	4,300	45,300	900	2,300	2,700	80	150	26,100	300	1,300
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	443,300	500	12,200	67,500	320	1,850	1,770	50	60	53,600	300	1,700
Government	376,500	-33,300	-5,500	88,100	-4,100	-990	3,300	-530	-70	70,600	-1,900	-500

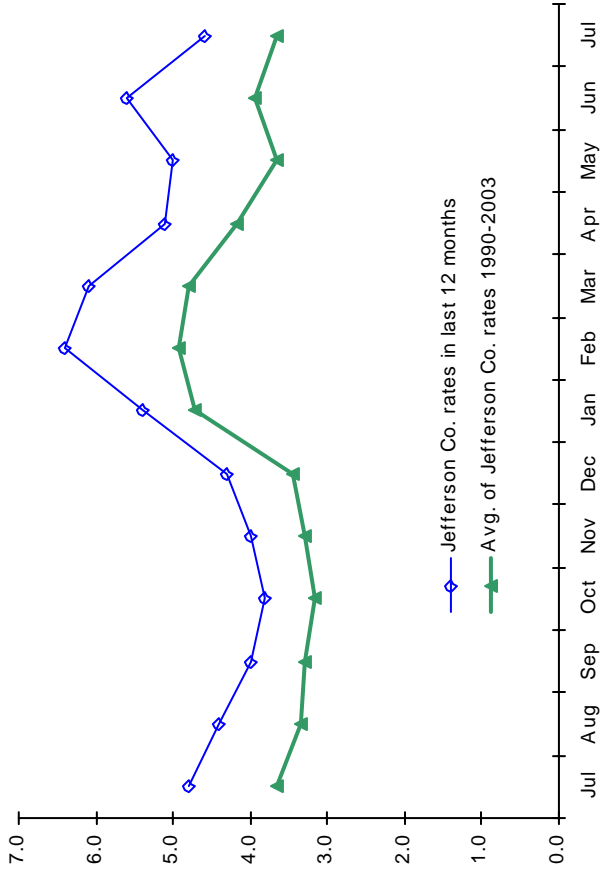
	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Jul 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jul 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jul 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Jul 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all indstries*	34,600	-160	200	35,800	-490	-60	3,800	-150	-40	38,800	-260	-140
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,400	40	-10	1,470	50	70	250	10	-90	2,400	10	10
Manufacturing	10,400	230	-190	8,900	-20	-630	1,200	-20	10	6,600	20	-70
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	4,300	80	310	6,300	20	70	490	10	0	6,500	-150	-270
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	950	-50	10	1,170	-40	-50	60	0	0	690	-30	-40
Financial activities	870	10	30	960	-10	30	150	0	0	1,510	-10	50
Education & health services	4,300	-40	160	4,600	-10	10	300	0	10	3,300	0	50
Leisure & hospitality	2,700	20	170	3,500	-80	180	490	0	30	10,000	580	470
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	3,600	-60	-20	5,100	30	320	240	10	20	3,300	-10	-240
Government	5,200	-390	-250	3,900	-430	-60	620	-160	-30	4,500	-670	-90

*Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

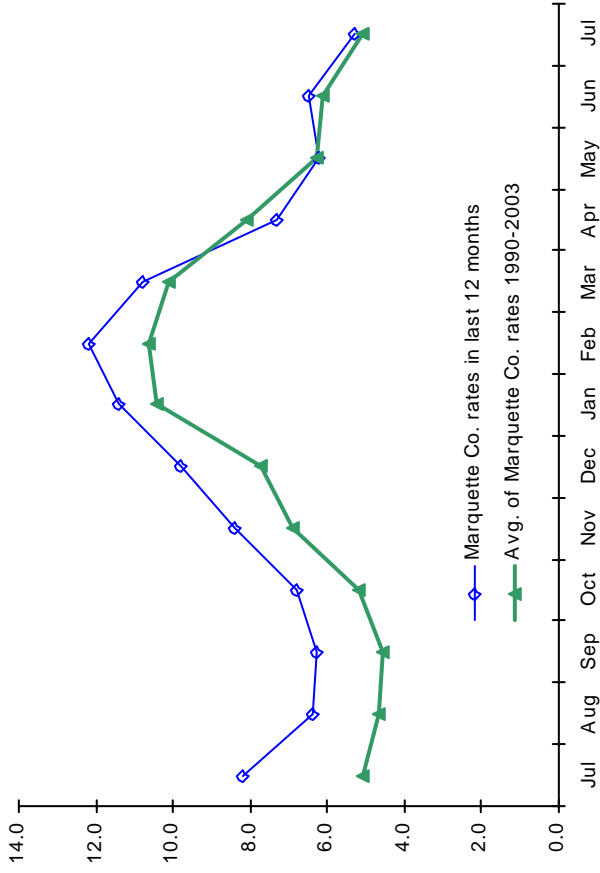
Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted



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